

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. BEIRUT JITTERY AS FIRING, SNIPING CONTINUE

EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT CHRISTMAS IN LEBANON DID NOT
TURN INTO THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES WHICH HAD BEEN
PREDICTED, BUT:

--MORTARS AND ROCKDTS WERE CLEARLY AUDIBLE THROUGHOUT
THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 25-26.

--ARMED MEN ARE IN BEIRUT STREETS IN UNPRECEDENTED
NUMBERS. SHOOTINGS, KIDNAPPINGS, AND MURDERS ARE
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STILL OCCURRING, THOUGH IN DIMINISHED NUMBERS.

--ZAHLE, THE SCENE OF BLOODX CLASHES BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
WAS CALM AS THE HIGHER COORDINATION COMMITTEE
MOVED TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION.

INTRIPOLI THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF
PRIME MINISTER KARAME AND PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS HAS NOT

BEEN RESOLVED, BUT A TWO HOUR MEETING BETWEEN KARAME
AND ARAFAT ALLEGEDLY BROUGHT AN ORDER FROM ARAFAT TO
PLO AUTHORITIES IN TRIPOLI TO BACK OFF FOR THE MOMENT.
(CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 15564, 15556, 12/26.

2. KOREAN CABINET CHANGES SHOW PARK FIRMLY IN CONTROL

BY HIS RECENT CABINET SHAKE-UP, EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS,
PRESIDENT PARK CONSOLIDATED HIS CONTROLHAND SHOWED THAT
HE IS CERTAIN HIS NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM, WPTH ITS
LIMITATION ON DISSENT, IS SECURE. IN ITS ANALYSIS OF
THE CHANGES, THE EMBASSY OBSERVES:

--BY ELIMINATING PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL,
PARK REMOVED THE ONE MAN LEFT IN THE TOP HIERARCHY
WHO HAD HIS OWN POLITICAL BASE, BUT KIM WILL NOT
STAY OUT OF THE POLITICAL ARENA FOR LOMG.

--PARK HAS CHOSEN TECHNOCRATS FOR HIS CABINETWHO
CAN FINE TUNE THE ESTABLPSHED INSTRUMENTS TO
CONTROL DOMESTIC UNREST, NOWH THAT THE PAST NINE
MONTHS HAVE TAUGHTH THE CENTERS OF OPPOYITION IN
UNIVERSITIES, THE PRESS, THE RELIGIOUS SECTOR, AND
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHAT THE TOLERANCE LIMITS OF
POLITICAL ACTIVITY ARE. (CONFIDENTIAL) SEOUL
9926, 12/26.

3. INDONESIANS REACT TO UNSC TIMOR RESOLUTION

THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, REACTING TOH THE DECEMBER 22
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR,
LABELED IT "MORE PROGRESSIVE" THAN THE EARLIER UNGA
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RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, EMBASSY JAKARTA POINTS OUT, THE
GOI'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

--MAKES CLEAR THAT COOPERATION WITH THE UN WILL
BE ON INDONESIA'S TERMS; AND

--REJECTS THE CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF INDONESIAN
TROOPS AS IRRELEVANT, DENYING ANY GOVERNMENT

AUTHORITY OVER THE "VOLUNTEERS."

ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THE EMBASSY NOTES:

--FRETILIN RADIO, SILENT SINCE DECEMBER 16, MAY
HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. IF SO, FRETILIN'S COMMUNICATIONS

WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, INCLUDING ITS UN REPRESENTATIVES, ARE NOW VIRTUALLY SEVERED.

--THE DE FACTO INTEGRATION OF THE FORMER PORTUGUESE
TIMOR ENCLAVE OF OECUSSI INTO TIMOR IS PROCEEDING
RAPIDLY--OECUSSI HAS BEEN NAMED A "COUNTY" OF
INDONESIA. (CONFIDENTIAL) JAKARTA 15755, 12/24.

4. YUGOSLAVS REMAIN WARY IN WAKE OF MINIC VISIT TO MOSCOW

YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC'S VISIT TO MOSCOW DID NOT
ALLAY YUGOSLAV SUSPICIONS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS. FRG
AMBASSADOR SAHM, WHO DISCUSSED THE VISIT WITH THE YUGO-
SLAV AMBASSADOR, CONVEYED THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS TO
EMBASSY MOSCOW:

--GROMYKO CONFIRMED SOVIET RECOGNITION OF YUGOSLAVIA
AS A NONALIGNED STATE, WITH A RIGHT TO "INDEPENDENT
FORMS OF MANAGEMENT," BUT HE REFUSED TO INCLUDE
THESE POINTS IN THE COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE
VISIT.

--ACCEPTING THE DENIAL OF RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT AS
PRESENTED IN A PRAVDJ ARTICLE, MINIC DID NOT
PRESS THE ISSUE OF THE COMINFORMISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA
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WHO PLANNED TO UNDERMINE THE REGIME AND ALLEGEDLY
HAD SOVIET CONNECTIONS.

--MINIC INFERRED THAT THE SOVIETS, CONCERNED
ABOUT AFRICAN CRITICISM OF THEIR ROLE IN ANGOLA,
WERE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE THE SOVIETS WERE WILLING TO GO
SOME DISTANCE TO SATISFY THE YUGOSLAVS ON ECONOMIC
MATTERS AND DISASSOCIATION FROM THE COMINFORMIST
PLOTS, THEY WOULD NOT BREAK NEW GROUND TO ACKNOWLEDGE
PUBLICLY YUGOSLAV POSITIONS ON INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL
SOVEREIGNTY, OR NONALIGNMENT. THE YUGOSLAVS CERTAINLY
HAVE NO MORE REASON THAN BEFORE THE VISIT TO LET DOWN
THEIR GUARD. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 18423, 12/26

5. POLAND: TOUGHER ECONOMIC MEASURES IN SIGHT

A RECENT ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER JAROSZEWICZ TO THE SEJM RESPONDS TO THE DILEMMA THE GOP FACES IN ITS

ATTEMPT TO WRING MORE PRODUCTIVITY FROM AN OFTEN TRUCULENT LABOR FORCE. THE GOVERNMENT'S VARIOUS EXPERIMENTS WITH INCENTIVES TO STIMULATE PRODUCTION HAVE RAISED OUTPUT WITHOUT NOTICEABLY IMPROVING EFFICIENCY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTRIBUTING HEAVILY TO INFLATIONARY PRESSURES. ON THE OTHER HAND, A RETURN TO MANDATORY DELIVERIES OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS OR STRONGER DISCIPLINE IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WILL MORE LIKELY DECREASE PRODUCTION THAN PRODUCE A LARGER INCREASE. WITH THESE PROBLEMS IN MIND, JAROSZEWICZ, IN HIS ADDRESS:

--SINGLED OUT AGRICULTURE, SUFFERING FROM TWO YEARS OF UNFAVORABLE WEATHER, AS A LEADING CONTRIBUTOR TO POLAND'S ECONOMIC HEADACHES;

--SAID THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE NEW REGULATIONS CLOSELY TYING WAGE INCREASES TO PRODUCTION INCREASES, AND ENCOURAGED MORE ENERGETIC ACTION AGAINST UNJUSTIFIED ABSENCES AND EXCESSIVE WORKER
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MOBILITY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: A CURRENT PROBLEM--THE LIMITED INCENTIVE VALUE OF WAGE INCREASES GIVEN AN INADEQUATE SUPPLY OF CONSUMER GOODS--MAY BE SOMEWHAT EASED NEXT YEAR IF THE DOMESTIC MARKET BALANCE IMPROVES AS EXPECTED WITH CONSUMER GOODS SUPPLIES INCREASING FASTER THAN WAGES. BUT THE GOP MUST STILL FIND A CARROT AND STICK COMBINATION, PERHAPS THROUGH JAROSZEWICZ' NEW REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL PERSUADE INDIVIDUAL MANAGERS AND WORKERS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE WITHOUT PRODUCING RESISTANCE TO HEAVIER DEMANDS. THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOP TO BRING OFF IN A PERIOD MARKED BY INCREASING COMPETITION BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND IMPORT MARKET CLAIMS ON POLISH PRODUCTION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) WARSAW 8273, 12/24. SISCO

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